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EDITORIAL COMMENT



UNTRAINED *versus* TRAINED NURSES

A GRADUATE of the Orange Training-School has opened a discussion in the letter department on the subject of the increasing popularity of experienced nurses *versus* trained nurses, and she boldly challenges the members of the nursing profession to get at the truth of the situation and find a remedy for it.

Not long ago we heard this matter freely discussed by a group of women representing several schools, young nurses and older graduates being in the party. The statement was made that many of the best physicians were employing untrained women in many instances where the circumstances of the family did not seem to call for economy. It was the consensus of opinion that there must be a reason, and that the remedy must come from within the nursing body.

One of the younger nurses in the group made the bold assertion that it was a great injustice to the public and to the nursing profession that the woman fresh from her hospital training should be paid the same as the nurse of riper experience, asserting that her own experience for the first year or more was a succession of blunders; that conditions in a multitude of homes could not be learned in a hospital; that only until a nurse was absolutely dependent upon herself and free of all constraint of hospital control could she appreciate the value of adjustment upon which her success so largely depends; that until the young graduate has thrashed out this matter for herself her services are not worth as much to the patient as they will be later, and that if during this period she would be satisfied to work for ten, twelve, or fifteen dollars there would be little demand for untrained women, and there would be less cause for criticism from those paying full rates; those paying less would not be

so exacting; the entire field would be covered by trained women, as the medical field is now covered by trained physicians, who would be paid according to experience and skill, the new classes each year pushing forward those of the year before who had proved their ability, while those who had failed to find their adjustment from experience would forever remain where they properly belong, in the ranks of the unskilled. To these very radical statements there was not a dissenting voice.

A little story which has come to us recently throws a side-light on this question from the patient's point of view. A certain lady had for her family physician a man who always employed "experienced" nurses. After several illnesses it came about that there was no experienced nurse available, and with apologies the doctor said he would be obliged to send her a trained nurse. Again the lady was ill, and her physician said, "I will send you Miss ——" (an experienced nurse), but the patient said, "Oh, no, Doctor, no more experienced nurses for me! I prefer them trained." When, in surprise, he demanded to know the reason why, she replied: "Because I noticed that when I had an experienced nurse you came always once a day, sometimes twice, but when I had a trained nurse you only came every day during the very acute stage of my illness; then two or three times a week was sufficient. I paid the trained nurse a little more, but I paid you a great deal less. I had infinitely better care and the total cost of my sickness was much less than it would have been with an experienced nurse and daily or twice daily visits from you."

With the overcrowding of the medical profession and its consequent increasing competition among doctors, we are inclined to think that this intelligent patient has revealed the key to at least one side of the situation.

We are not offering suggestions at this time, but simply putting the question for our readers to discuss, but in such discussion there are some practical points that must not be lost sight of:

1. That with the increase of training-schools and nurses, competition has arisen.
2. That the supply is fast becoming greater than the demand.
3. That all women trained in the same school are not equally skilled, and that under competition their services cannot continue to have the same commercial value.
4. That the demand for nurses for the great well-to-do middle class has never been met by trained nurses, and that it has got to be met sometime.
5. That the district nurse and the hourly nurse cannot be brought

forward as a substitute. The people want a good nurse who will stay as long as she is needed.

We are up against a problem. The solution of it has been evaded for years.

Has the time come when nurses will have the courage to get at the truth and apply the remedy?

THE PORTLAND CONFERENCE

THE official announcement of the Conference of Charities at Portland, Ore., will be found in the Official Department, and we hope Miss Hitchcock may have a cordial response to her request for information in regard to "District Nursing" from nurses all over the country. The object of this great Convention of Charities and Correction is to bring together persons interested in all varieties of philanthropic work for discussion and comparison of methods, and for the first time this year district nurses will take their place with the delegates representing all the other lines of philanthropic work. Just in what way district nurses are brought into touch in their daily work with all the other departments of charity and philanthropy in a great city will be shown in a paper which will be published in our May issue, written by Miss Harriet M. Johnson, of Hartly House, New York City.

The railroad rates as quoted in Miss Hitchcock's announcement give an approximate idea of what the trip will cost from different points, and the cost of still another and more extended trip, in which some may be interested, is also given here. A ticket reading via Anchor Line, Buffalo to Duluth, meals and berth included, thence by rail to Portland with stop-over privilege to visit Yellowstone Park, returning same route, one hundred and forty dollars and fifty cents. A ticket reading via same route to Portland, thence by either rail or steamer to San Francisco, returning by rail via any of the direct lines, one hundred and fifty-three dollars and ninety-five cents. The Lake trip from Buffalo to Duluth takes five days and is one of the most delightful vacation excursions in the country, and, in addition to much of beauty and interest, the boat line offers rest to tired workers before entering upon the more tedious railroad journey and the fatigue of the conference and the Lewis and Clarke Exposition. (The cost of the side trip to the Yellowstone is usually about thirty-five dollars, occupying five and one-half days.)

These figures are quoted by Amsden & Co., of Rochester, for a single ticket. Undoubtedly a party could obtain a still greater reduction. We imagine that later in the season special excursion rates may be

quoted at lower figures, but the rates given at this time will enable many to decide whether the trip can be taken or not, and details can be worked out later. It is a great opportunity to see a wonderfully interesting section of our country at comparatively little cost.

A PRACTICAL EXPERIMENT

MRS. HARRIET CAMP LOUNSBERY, of Charleston, W. Va., has been doing some good work this year in her home city—something on the lines of the work done in the Charlestown High School, Mass., by Dr. Laura Hughes, only on more conservative lines. Mrs. Lounsbery has the girls of the senior and junior classes in the High School come to her house, where she teaches them only those practical things about nursing that every woman should know—how to rub, how to make a mustard plaster, how to make a poultice, how to wring and apply fomentations, how to change upper and lower sheets, the use and abuse of the various parts of the body, etc. The girls are interested and frequently apply this knowledge in their homes.

Mrs. Lounsbery advocates the teaching of this kind of practical nursing in all High Schools, which, if done properly, will not in any way interfere with the work of regular nurses.

This seems to us to be a valuable means of developing in girls at the impressionable age an interest in nursing, and to stimulate a desire to fit themselves while in the High School for admission to the highest grade of training-schools. It will soon be recognized in those States having State registration that in order to become a nurse a girl must have a definite amount of schooling, and many young women will remain in the High School until they have finished the course who in the past have dropped out from indifference, knowing that at least they had education enough to become a trained nurse if everything else failed. No better way to stimulate interest in nursing and a knowledge of nursing standards has been suggested than the plan which Mrs. Lounsbery has borrowed from Boston and is working out on practical lines. Such instruction might well be given by a nurse in connection with the advanced classes in anatomy and physiology, and the boys as well as girls might profit by a little practical common-sense knowledge of this kind.

THE SITUATION IN ENGLAND

WE referred briefly in our last issue to the new society that had been formed in England called "The Incorporated Society for Promoting the Higher Education and Training of Nurses."

The object of this society, so far as we understand it, is to establish a system of voluntary registration instead of State registration, and to exercise a controlling policy in regard to all matters of nursing education and practice. While the motive for the formation of this new society is claimed by some to be to harmonize the various forces for so long in an attitude of antagonism and bring order and peace out of a most deplorable condition of chaos, the effect has really been to cause such an explosion as has never been dreamed of in nursing affairs before.

The Matrons' Council and the Society for Promoting State Registration have come out in strong opposition to the Incorporated Society, and at a mass-meeting held in London on February 22 resolutions were passed protesting against its incorporation by the Board of Trade of the City of London, and a committee was appointed to present these resolutions to the President of the Board of Trade, *provided he would consent to receive them*. Mr. Sidney Holland, who is one of the bitterest opponents of State registration, is equally opposed to the Incorporated Society. Miss Catherine J. Wood is in favor of it, and so far as we can understand conditions at this distance the registration movement in Great Britain has boiled over out of the frying-pan into the fire. We can only await developments, extending our sympathies to the State registration party.

A QUESTION OF COLLUSION.

To those who are watching the Worcester scheme for the organization of a voluntary system of registration in New England the similarity of that with this new plan of the Incorporated Society in London is very noticeable. Miss Dock has outlined the most marked points of resemblance in the Foreign Department of this issue, and that there has been collusion between the promoters of both schemes no one can for a moment doubt. The Worcester plan is modified to meet the more liberal conditions in this country, for even in conservative New England such despotic measures as are proposed in Great Britain would not be tolerated for a moment by intelligent men or women.

That all English people (with the exception of Mr. Sidney Holland) are coming to recognize the necessity for some form of registration is conclusive, and on those lines progress is being made in spite of the row.

THE PITY OF IT.

The humiliating thing that must be faced in both countries is in the fact that both of these gigantic schemes have come about because of a lack of unity and loyalty among the nurses themselves. The discord among nurses in Great Britain has been a disgrace for years.

Without some assurance of a "following," Dr. Worcester would have had no motive for even the suggestion of a voluntary society in New England.

The pettiness and jealousy that have brought about these conditions are, we believe, more faults of sex than of the profession. It is as women that nurses are failing, the weak and dependent ones, like their mothers and grandmothers since the world began, instinctively following the leadership of any man, good or bad, wise or unwise, just or unjust, it makes no difference.

So we are forced to acknowledge the truth of the idea that the world can progress, and nursing can progress, only according to the moral strength and wisdom and courage of its women in standing together for what is best for the whole.

In America nurses have not fallen to the depths of discord that prevail in England, but there have been examples in several of the States where standards have been lowered or measures lost entirely because of this very lack of unity and loyalty on the part of nurses towards nurses.

The struggle that the English nurses are making for the right to live free professional lives with a voice in the management of their own affairs should be a warning to those women in this country who are not willing to follow the lead of the majority, but rather risk destruction to all progress by following after selfish schemers whose motives no one can solve.

PROGRESS OF STATE REGISTRATION

THE Indiana bill has passed. This bill was introduced in the House by Mr. Barron on January 11, passed both houses of the Legislature on February 25, and was signed by Governor Hanley and became a law on February 27, 1905. The bill as passed is printed in full in the Official Department of this issue. It suffered from several amendments in its passage, the most serious one being the loss of the right to nominate candidates for the Nurse Board of Examiners by the Indiana State Nurses' Association. The Governor objected to that condition, and in order to have the bill become a law that concession was made, but with great reluctance. There was bitter opposition to the measure as a whole, emanating from special schools and untrained women, and, considering all the obstacles that had to be met and overcome, the nurses feel that the result is a matter for great congratulation, although the standards of education are not as high as were asked for in the original bill. The nurses had cordial support from medical men and the two leading medical journals of Indiana, and from splendid men in both houses of the Legislature. We congratulate the Indiana nurses.

The California bill for the State registration of nurses was signed by Governor Pardee on March 22. Our information is by telegram and we are unable to give the terms of the bill as it finally passed. The struggle has been bitter and the concessions many. The opposition has come from nurses who seceded from the State association and put in an opposition bill. We congratulate the California nurses who have led this measure to victory.

The Massachusetts bill came up for a final hearing on March 21, and on motion of Mr. Walker, of Brookline, acting for the nurses, it was carried over until the next General Court and will be taken up again another year.

The West Virginia bill was crowded out by the mass of business before the Legislature, so that it was not brought to a hearing at this winter's session. It will be ready for consideration early in the next term.

The Pennsylvania State meeting being held in Scranton as we go to press is reported at the close of the second day as being in every way harmonious and satisfactory. The fate of the bill is not yet decided. A full report will be given in our May issue.

The Rhode Island Association of Graduate Nurses was incorporated according to the laws of Rhode Island on January 25, 1905. On January 26 a meeting was held to complete the organization of the association, at which time thirty-five charter members were enrolled and Miss Lucy C. Ayers was elected president. On March 1 a meeting was held to discuss the bill which the association hopes to present to the Legislature this year.

TWO ATTACKS UPON THE NEW YORK LAW.

During the past month two bills have been introduced into the New York Legislature very different in character but both equally detrimental to the nurses' registration act.

On March 1 Senator McCarren introduced two amendments to the public health law similar in purport, one applying to the nurse law and the other to the medical law. These amendments require that the examiners in both professions shall "provide for an examination in mental science as a means of promoting and preserving health."

On March 3 Senator Goodsell introduced an amendment requiring the Regents to issue a certificate of registration to Elizabeth G. Wright,

a woman who had applied for registration and been rejected by the examiners as being unable to comply with any of the requirements of the law. The Legislative Committee of the New York State Nurses' Association, of which Miss Delano, of Bellevue, is chairman, were able to convince Senator Goodsell that the effect of such an amendment would be to lower the standard of the registration act, and he has very courteously withdrawn the measure, but not without very vigorous action from nurses in several sections of the State, Rochester taking an active part in coöperation with New York for the defeat of both the Goodsell and McCarren measures. It will be remembered that the original registration bill was introduced as a Monroe County measure "fathered" by Senator W. W. Armstrong, of Rochester, and any amendments that would tend to lower the standards of the nursing statute are quite sure to be opposed by the Monroe County delegation in the Legislature.

The fate of the McCarren amendment in the interest of mental science we are not yet able to state. As we go to press the bill is being vigorously opposed by the medical profession, and its defeat by that body would insure the withdrawal of the amendment to the nursing act.

Of course, all nurses realize that the nursing law, like the medical and other laws, will always be subject to "attacks," but one State has now had the actual experience by which all should profit. A Sub-Legislative Committee in every nursing centre would seem to be almost a necessity, that the wishes of the nurses in every district should be known to all Senators and Assemblymen, and that someone should have authority to act when emergencies arise such as New York has had to meet.

With the passage of a bill the real work commences. A law does not enforce itself, continued pressure must be constantly felt from someone. A pernicious amendment allowed to pass because no one is on hand to object may undo the work of years. From the day a bill passes a committee must be on guard whenever the Legislature is in session, for it is when least expected that such measures will be introduced.

THE CONVENTION AT WASHINGTON

THE programme for the convention week in Washington is given in the official announcements in this issue, with hotel prices and rates of transportation.

We have every reason to believe that there will be a very large gathering of nurses upon this occasion.

As Washington is a night's journey from so many of the nursing centres, it may be of interest to some to know that when a party is being made up an entire sleeping-car can usually be secured if the

number is sufficiently large to fill it, provided arrangements are made long enough in advance with the car company.

Such an arrangement adds greatly to the pleasure of the excursion if congenial members can arrange to be together.

OF INTEREST TO NEW YORK STATE.

Two of the papers which are announced are of special interest at this time to those concerned in the subject of nursing education, especially in New York State. The standards of education established by the New York State nursing act requires that nurses shall be instructed both theoretically and practically in the various subjects that come under the heads of medical, surgical, obstetrical, and children's diseases. In order to comply with the requirements of the law many hospitals that have been classed as "general" in character are having to arrange for affiliation with special hospitals where experience in children's, contagious, or obstetrical work can be obtained under proper conditions. Already there are a number of instances of such affiliations having been satisfactorily arranged, and many schools are looking for such opportunities.

Mrs. Hunter Robb's paper on the subject of the "Affiliation of Training-Schools" will bear directly upon this question, and will show in what manner such affiliations can best be organized. It will be full of valuable suggestions, which will aid in the adjustment of standards which is now taking place.

Miss Palmer's paper on the "Effect of Registration upon Training-Schools" will show in a general way the influence of the law as a great compelling factor in raising the standards of nursing education. Her statistics will be based largely upon the work which has already been done in New York State, and while this work is only in its earliest infancy, the results that have come about in so short a time will be a great stimulus to registration work generally, and an encouragement to those who have found it difficult to conform to the requirements.

Both Mrs. Robb and Miss Palmer will be glad to hear from any schools which they have not been able to reach otherwise in regard to these subjects.

The value of Mrs. Robb's paper will be greatly enhanced by her being informed as to the extent of such affiliations already in actual operation.

Miss Palmer has sent out a large number of circular letters asking for statistics, but as it is quite impossible for her to reach all of the training-schools of the country, she desires to hear from any and all schools whose standards or methods have been in any way affected by

the registration laws, and she also desires to communicate with special hospitals of any kind that wish to add to their nursing corps by affiliating with other hospitals.

As president of the Board of Examiners of New York, the fact has been brought home to her very forcibly that while on the one hand special schools are finding it exceedingly difficult to obtain nurses enough to do their work, on the other hand a number of other schools are looking for additional hospital experience for their pupils in order to comply with the requirements of the Regents.

It only seems to be necessary for some means to be devised for the bringing of these schools together, in order to secure an adjustment of advantage to all parties, which will ultimately lead to the end which is being sought—the broader education of nurses.

Mrs. Hunter Robb is now at her home in Nottingham, O., and Miss Palmer's address is 247 Brunswick Street, Rochester, N. Y.

NEW YORK ANNUAL MEETING

THE announcement of the New York State Nurses' annual meeting will be found on another page. The programme being arranged promises to be most interesting and there should be a large attendance.

